REMARKS

Reconsideration of this Application and entry of new claims 10-12 is respectfully requested. Support for new claims 10-12 is found in page 5, line 30 through page 6, line 2, and in page 7, lines 4-5.

Claims 1-12 are pending in the Application, with claims 1-9 having been rejected by the Examiner as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,378,268 to Wolf et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,985,785 to Lane et al. as evidenced by Univar, and claims 10-12 added by amendment herein. Applicant maintains that claims 1-9 of the Application are not obvious for the reasons set forth in his response of January 21, 2004, and he reserves the right to assert on appeal the arguments made therein, whether or not they are included in this Reply.

In this Reply, Applicant specifically requests that the Examiner reconsider her determination that the CABOSIL material of Lane et al. would inherently act as a swelling material when used as an anticaking agent in Wolf et al. Even if, as the Examiner has suggested, the materials are the same type, have the same material properties, and are included in the same type of mixture, there is no indication that they would be included in the composition in the proper amount. As set forth in the independent claims of the Application, the hydrophilic swelling material must be present in an amount from about 0.05 to about 5% by weight. In the newly added dependent claims the amount is limited to presence in an amount from about 0.5 to 2.5% by weight.

When discussing the use of an anticaking agent to grind a catalytic metal salt, Lane et al. includes a range of ratios of anticaking agent to catalytic metal salt. "While a broad range of ratios of anticaking agent to catalytic metal salt may be used, a preferred range is from 2:1 to 25:1 parts by weight, most preferably from 4:1 to 10:1 parts by weight, of anticaking agent to

catalytic metal salt." (Col. 5, lines 51-55). Even when viewed in its broadest sense, the range of Lane et al. is not instructive regarding the proper percentage of hydrophilic swelling material necessary to practice the invention of the instant Application and satisfy its claims.

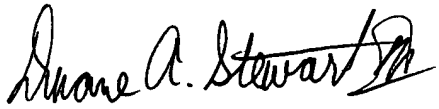
It is well-established that for an invention to be *prima facie* obvious, all limitations of the claims must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *See In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974). The cited references do not teach the range claimed in section (e) of claim 1, section (b)(v) of claim 4, or section (b)(5) of claim 5 of the Application, and they do not teach the more narrow ranges claimed in claims 10-12 added by Amendment herein. Because the references do not teach all of the limitations of the independent claims of the invention, Applicant respectfully submits that no *prima facie* case of obviousness may be made in light of Wolf et al. in view of Lane et al. as evidenced by Univar, for any of the claims of the Application. Applicant asks that the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant further requests that new claims 10-12 be entered and allowed. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and as such, the present Application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes for any reason that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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